

Message Text

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TAGS: PLOS, PFOR, US, JA

SUBJ: JAPAN AND EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL WATERS

REF: STATE 302051

1. REINFORCING POINTS MADE TO AMBASSADOR YASUKAWA BY DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL IN WASHINGTON DEC 19, I MADE STRONG DEMARCHE TO FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA DEC 29 ON EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL WATERS. I ASKED 1) WHETHER FOREIGN MINISTER BELIEVED EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL WATERS LEGISLATION WOULD GO FARTHER IN DIET; 2) WHETHER THERE WERE REASONS OTHER THAN FISHERIES ISSUE FOR PROPOSED LEGISLATION; AND 3) WHETHER JAPANESE FELT THAT INGERSOLL'S SUGGESTION TO DECLARE 12-MILE "EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONE" RATHER THAN 12-MILE TERRITORIAL WATERS HAD PROMISE.

2. IN REPLY, FONMIN SAID GOJ FEELS THAT SHOULD ATTEMPT BE MADE TO USE SUGGESTED EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONE APPROACH, SOVIETS COULD DEMAND CONCESSIONS WITH RESPECT TO FISHING CATCH LEVELS BASED ON PRIOR YEAR SOVIET CATCHES WITHIN RESTRICTED AREA. IF DENIED SUCH CONCESSIONS, SOVIETS COULD EFFECTIVELY RETALIATE WITH RESPECT TO SALMON AND OTHER NORTHERN AREA FISH IN WAY THAT WOULD BE VERY DAMAGING TO JAPANESE. IN EFFECT, FONMIN'S ANSWER WAS THAT 12-MILE FISHING ZONE ARRANGEMENT DOES NOT APPEAR TO HOLD MUCH PROMISE.

3. SECOND, FONMIN SAID GOVERNMENT EXPLORING A WAY TO ESTABLISH 12-MILE TERRITORIAL LIMIT WITH RIGHTS OF FREE PASSAGE

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LISH 12-MILE TERRITORIAL LIMIT WITH RIGHTS OF FREE PASSAGE

THROUGH CERTAIN DESIGNATED STRAITS. GOJ PRESENTLY EXAMINING QUESTION OF HOW THIS COULD BE DONE LEGALLY. MORE DIFFICULT TO COPE WITH WILL BE OUTCRY FROM OPPOSITION PARTY CLAIMING THAT SUCH LEGISLATION VIOLATES JAPAN'S THREE NON-NUCLEAR PRINCIPLES. FONMIN SAID THAT THIS IS SUBJECT ON WHICH PRIMIN MIKI WILL HAVE TO MAKE SOME DIFFICULT DECISIONS.

4. FINALLY, FONMIN SAID THAT JAPANESE HAVE BEEN WATCHING CLOSELY LEGISLATION PROPOSED IN CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO "200-MILE ZONE." WHEN PRIMIN MIKI DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITH PRESIDENT FORD AT RAMBOUILLET, JAPANESE GAVE IMPRESSIONS THAT UNILATERAL ACTION OF MEXICO AND OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO VETO SUCH LEGISLATION SHOULD IT SUCCESSFULLY PASS THE CONGRESS.

5. I ASKED WHETHER JAPANESE COULD ARRANGE DELAY ON TERRITORIAL SEA LEGISLATION BEYOND MARCH LOS MEETING DATE. FONMIN REPLIED THAT SUCH DELAY HAS BEEN GOJ OBJECTIVE. HOWEVER, HE QUESTIONS WHETHER CONVENTION COULD BE CODIFIED AND PUT INTO PRACTICE IN LESS THAN THREE OR FOUR YEARS TIME, EVEN IF LOS CONFERENCE COULD AGREE. FURTHERMORE, MIYAZAWA WONDERS WHETHER US CONGRESS WOULD NOT HAVE ALREADY PASSED 200-MILE LEGISLATION BEFORE THAT TIME.

6. I OFFERED TO GET THE BEST POSSIBLE ESTIMATE OF WHAT THE TIMING OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON 200-MILE LEGISLATION MIGHT BE. I WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S MOST UP-TO-DATE ASSESSMENT.

7. COMMENT: GOJ HAS NOT MADE UP ITS MIND YET WHAT TO DO ABOUT EXTENDING TERRITORIAL WATERS, BUT MAIN FOCUS OF ITS EFFORTS APPEARS TO BE ON HOW TO PROVIDE FOR 12-MILE ZONE RATHER THAN HOW TO RESIST IT. GOJ SHARES OUR HOPE THAT MATTER CAN BE RESOLVED BY LOS CONFERENCE, BUT IS APPREHENSIVE THAT UNILATERAL US DECLARATION OF 200-MILE ZONE WILL BE IN EFFECT BEFORE THAT TIME MAKING JAPANESE LOOK SILLY FOR HAVING MADE STRONG EFFORT TO POSTPONE EXTENSION OF JAPAN'S TERRITORIAL SEAS.
HODGSON

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